

Final Draft

Rhode Island Municipal Septic System Standards and Programs

Prepared by
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for the
Septic System Maintenance Policy Forum
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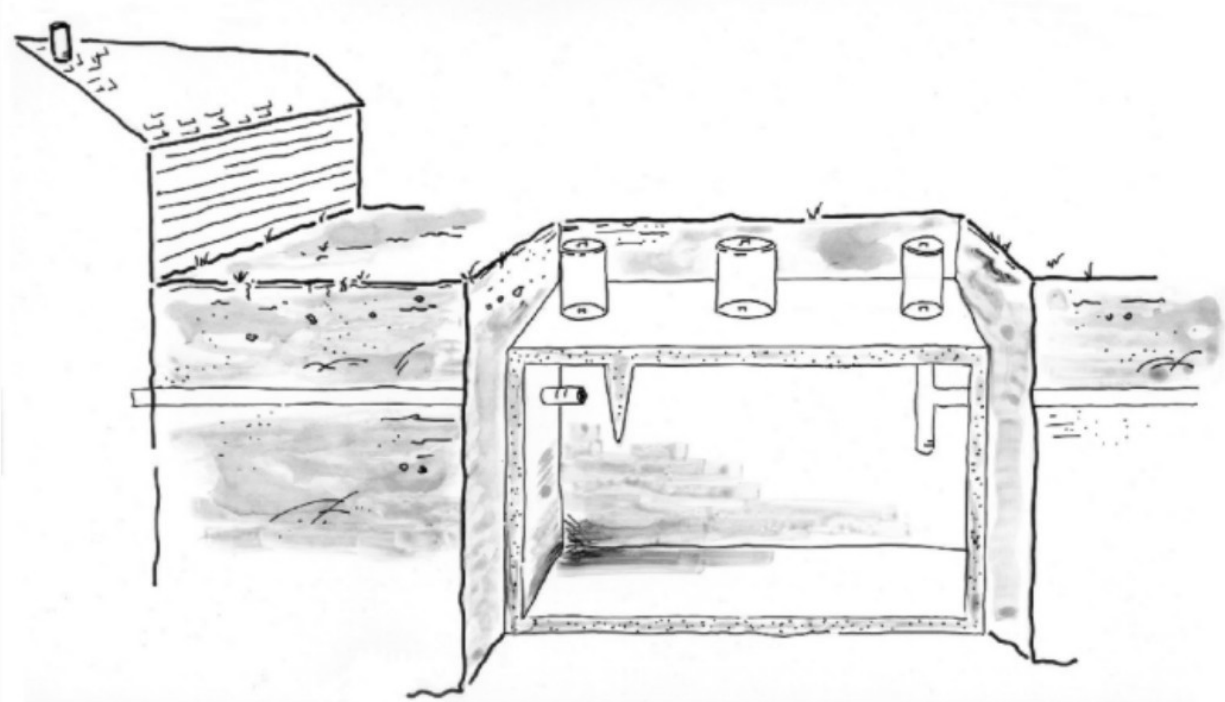


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Introduction and Survey Methodology

The information in this report was compiled by M. James Riordan, Principal Environmental Scientist for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Office Water Resources for use by Rhode Island municipalities that are developing or revising septic system requirements and management programs. Brandon Fenneuf and Jennifer Langheld also worked on this project as seasonal employees under the supervision of Mr. Riordan. The Septic System Maintenance Policy Forum recommended development of this manual.

Data for this report was collected via phone survey to town planners, wastewater officials, wastewater commissioners and other officials. Mr. Riordan, Mr. Fenneuf, and Ms. Langheld conducted the survey. The following six questions were asked:

1. Does your town have septic system requirements or standards that go beyond the state septic system standards?
2. Does your town have requirements for managing septic systems (i.e., inspection and maintenance)?
3. Does your town require the use of innovative and alternative systems (e.g., within critical areas and water supply watersheds)?
4. Who is the contact for each of your municipal programs and requirements?
5. How are your municipal programs implemented and enforced?
6. Does your town have a repair replacement program?

Survey participants provided verbal and written information (e.g., ordinances and regulations). Written information collected during the survey is provided in Appendix A—Selected Rhode Island Municipal Ordinances and Regulations Regarding Septic Systems.

Tabular Summary of Survey Results Regarding Rhode Island Municipal Septic System Requirements

Municipalities Surveyed	Standards (Setbacks, etc.) Beyond State Regulations	Management (Inspection/Maintenance) Requirements	Required Use of Innovative and Alternative Technologies	Repair Replacement Programs
Burrillville	Yes	No	No	No
Charlestown	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes(CSSLP)
Coventry http://www.town.coventry.ri.us/	No	No	No	Yes (CDBG)
Cranston	No	Under consideration	No	In development (CSSLP)
Cumberland	No	Under consideration	No	In development (CSSLP)
East Greenwich http://www.eastgreenwichri.com/	No	No	No	Yes (CDBG)
Foster	Yes	In Development	No	Yes (WRIHRP) In development (CSSLP)
Glocester	Yes	Yes	Under Consideration	Yes (WRIHRP) In development (CSSLP)
Hopkinton http://www.hopkintonri.com/	No	No	No	Yes (CDBG)

Johnston http://www.johnston-ri.com/	No	Yes	No	Yes (CDBG) In development (CSSLP)
Little Compton	No	No	No	No
Middletown	No	No	No	No
Narragansett	Yes	Yes	Based on staff recommendation	In development (CSSLP)
New Shoreham	Yes	Yes	Yes	In development (CSSLP)
North Kingstown http://www.northkingstown.org/waterdept/WAISDS.htm	Yes	Yes	Yes	In development (CSSLP)
North Smithfield http://www.northsmithfieldri.com/	No	No	No	No
Portsmouth http://www.portsmouthri.com/	Yes	Under consideration	Yes	Yes (CDBG) In development (CSSLP)
Scituate http://www.scituateri.org/	Yes	Under consideration	No	Yes (WRIHRP) In development (CSSLP)
South Kingstown	Yes	Proposed	May be required through negotiation	In development (CSSLP)
Tiverton	Yes	Under consideration	No	In development (CSSLP)
Warren http://www.townofwarren.org/	Yes	No	No	No
Warwick http://www.warwickri.com/	No	No	No	Yes
West Greenwich	Yes	No	No	Yes (CDBG)
Westerly	No	Under Consideration	No	Under consideration



Summary of Municipal Requirements and Management Programs for Septic Systems

Burrillville

Burrillville has established one enforceable policy that affects the construction and operation of septic systems:

- Burrillville Zoning Ordinance, Appendix A, section: 11-7.3, Lots containing wetlands.

Septic System Standards Beyond State Regulations

Burrillville's zoning ordinance establishes a 200-foot setback from wetlands and rivers for any site that contains a wetland, which encompass 40% or more of the total area.

Contacts

Katia Balassiano, Town Planner

105 Harrisville Main Street
Harrisville, RI 02830

Joseph Raymond, Zoning Official

Charlestown

Charlestown has established three bodies of enforceable policy that affect the construction and operation of septic systems. These are as follows:

- Chapter 210—Wastewater Management District.
- Charlestown Planning Commission Subdivision/Land Development Regulations.
- Charlestown Zoning Ordinance sections: 218-25, Special Use Permits; 218-36, Groundwater Protection District; 218-43, Site Plan Review—Standards; 218-87, Water Bodies; 218-101, Dwelling, Two Family; 218-114, Private School/College; 218-115, Convention Center.

Charlestown has completed an onsite wastewater management plan and has established eligibility for the Community Septic System Loan Program. They are the first town to take advantage of this program.

Septic System Standards Beyond State Regulations

Charlestown's subdivision regulations and zoning ordinance establish special standards for septic system siting and installation, which include policies for protection of sensitive resources. The subdivision regulations require an environmental analysis, which includes consideration of sewage disposal as well as factors related to sewage disposal, such as soils, slopes and proximity to waterbodies and wetlands. These regulations specifically allow the planning commission to enlarge the lot dimensions if this is deemed to be necessary for safe and affective operation of a septic system.

Section 218-87, Water Bodies of Charlestown's Zoning Ordinance establishes special requirements for setbacks from waterbodies and wetlands. These include the following setbacks:

- 100 feet from a freshwater or coastal wetland.
- 200 feet from a ten-foot-wide flowing body of water.
- 100 feet from flowing bodies of water less than 10 feet wide.
- 100 feet from intermittent streams.
- 100 feet from floodplains.

Septic System Management Requirements

Charlestown has established a wastewater management district ordinance, which is similar to the model ordinance developed for *Waste Water Management Districts...A Starting Point* (RIDOA/DOP, 1987). Charlestown's ordinance originally required septic systems to be pumped out on a three-year frequency. Recently, the ordinance was revised to require pumpouts based on inspection.

The Charlestown Wastewater Management Commission administers Charlestown's wastewater management program. The Charlestown Town Council appoints the five-member commission. Commissioners serve without compensation.

In addition to the requirements of the wastewater management ordinance, Charlestown also requires maintenance pumpouts for septic systems in subdivisions, which have been approved via subdivision review since 1992. This requirement is pursuant to enforceable policy. The pumpout requirement is recorded on the property deed.

Requirements for Innovative and Alternative Septic Systems

Charlestown recently established enforceable policy that requires innovative and alternative technologies for commercial uses, schools and convention centers. Each of these uses also requires a special use permit, as determined per Section 218-30, of the zoning ordinance. Demonstrating that a special use permit is not required is the burden of the applicant.

Charlestown requires innovative and alternative technologies if a variance from a sensitive-resource setback is requested. All multifamily dwellings within "lands developed beyond carrying capacity" in accordance with CRMC's Salt Ponds SAMP will also be required to use advanced technology.

Charlestown may also require use of innovative and alternative septic systems via site plan review. The need for a site plan review is determined per the requirements of Charlestown's zoning ordinance. In general, the ordinance necessitates a site plan review for most nonresidential uses. Single-family and two-family houses are exempted from review. The Charlestown Planning Commission conducts the review with the assistance of the Charlestown Planning Department.

Repair and Replacement Programs

Charlestown was the first municipality to receive approval of an onsite wastewater management plan and become eligible for the Community Septic System Loan Program.

Contacts

Wastewater Management

Commission

Roger Pease, Commission Chairman

Special Use Permits, Variances and Zoning Information

Don DiNucci, Zoning and Building
Official

(Copies of the Zoning Ordinance are
available for purchase.)

Charlestown Town Hall
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI 02813

Site Plan Review and Subdivision Review

Unfilled, Town Planner

(Site plan and subdivision review
application packages are available
upon request.)

Coventry

Requirements for Innovative and Alternative Septic Systems

While Coventry has no regulation or ordinance that specifically requires advanced treatment, the Town may recommend such application on a case-by-case basis. In such instances, funding for innovative and alternative systems may be obtained through the Community Development Block Grant.

Repair Replacement Programs

Coventry receives a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). It includes septic system repairs or replacements, among other household repairs.

Contact

Catherine LaPorte, Zoning Official
Coventry Town Hall
1670 Flat River Road
Coventry, RI 02816-8911

Cranston

Septic System Management Requirements

While Cranston currently has no management requirements implemented, they recently received a state nonpoint source management grant from DEM to establish a wastewater management plan and a program that will include maintenance requirements.

Repair Replacement Programs

The wastewater management plan will be used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program.

Contact

Kenneth Burke, Director
Cranston Department of Public Works
869 Park Avenue
Cranston, RI 02910

Cumberland

Septic System Management Requirements

While Cumberland currently has no management requirements implemented, they recently received a state nonpoint source management grant from DEM to establish a wastewater management plan and a program that will include maintenance requirements.

Repair Replacement Programs

The wastewater management plan will be used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program.

Contact

Town Planner
45 Broad Street
Cumberland, RI 02864

East Greenwich

Repair Replacement Programs

East Greenwich has established the Septic System Repair Program through Community Development Block Grant funding. In 1999, East Greenwich budgeted \$16,000 for septic system repairs via this program. Homeowners must receive a septic system permit from DEM and provide multiple estimates regarding the cost of the project. Homeowners submit for reimbursement once work is completed and paid. This repair program is targeted for cesspool upgrades.

Contact

Lee Whitaker, Town Planner
East Greenwich Town Hall
125 Main Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818-0111

Foster

Foster has established septic system requirements via one body of enforceable policy:

- Foster Zoning Supplemental Regulation--Section 6

Septic System Standards Beyond State Regulations

In its zoning regulation Foster establishes the following setbacks:

- Shallow surface leaching fields following a septic tank must be located 100 feet away from the side and rear property line of a lot.
- Sewage disposal must also be located at least 60 feet back from the front property line.
- There is a 200-foot setback from any pond, stream, spring or brook.

Septic System Management Requirements

Foster recently received a State nonpoint source management grant from DEM in conjunction with Scituate to develop an onsite wastewater management plan that will include consideration of inspection and maintenance requirements.

Repair Replacement Programs

Foster has received community development block grant funding along with Glocester and Scituate to develop the Western Rhode Island Home Repair Program. This program is not specifically used for septic systems, however certain septic system projects do qualify. Foster received a \$15,000 budget for Fiscal Year 1999. The program is generally used for moderate to low-income homeowners who must complete the application process.

The Foster-Scituate Onsite Wastewater Management Plan will be used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program.

Contact

Town Planner
Foster Town Hall
181 Howard Hill Road
Foster, RI 02825

Glocester

Glocester is currently undergoing development of a wastewater facilities plan and an onsite wastewater management plan. The town council appointed a Wastewater Management Board (as of June 17, 1999) to accomplish the following:

- Establish eligibility for the Community Septic System Loan Program.
- Make appropriate revisions to the draft wastewater facilities plan.
- Establish a townwide wastewater management district.

Glocester has developed two bodies of enforceable policy for septic systems:

- Glocester Zoning Ordinance
- Glocester Wastewater Management Ordinance

Septic System Standards Beyond State Regulations

Glocester's zoning ordinance establishes the following setback requirements:

- 150 feet from ponds, streams or springs.
- 100 feet from wells (DEM also makes this requirement).

Glocester's zoning official determines whether site plans for proposed developments meet the requirements of the zoning ordinance. If a proposed development will not meet the requirements, the developer may request a special use permit from the zoning board. Further appeals may be conducted through the court system.

Septic System Management Requirements

Glocester recently passed a wastewater management district ordinance and is currently implementing a management program as part of its onsite wastewater management plan. This ordinance is similar to the state's model ordinance and requires inspection and maintenance based on *Septic System Checkup*.

Requirements for Innovative and Alternative Septic Systems

Glocester is currently exploring development of requirements for innovative and alternative systems as part of its onsite wastewater management plan.

Glocester recently received a State nonpoint source management grant from DEM to develop and implement an onsite wastewater management plan and demonstrate the use of innovative and alternative septic systems in the Village of Chepachet.

Repair Replacement Programs

Glocester has received community development block grant funding along with Foster and Scituate to develop the Western Rhode Island Home Repair

Program. This program is not specifically used for septic systems, however certain septic system projects do qualify. The program is generally used for moderate to low-income homeowners who must complete the application process.

The Gloucester Onsite Wastewater Management Plan will be used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program.

Contacts

Building permit review

Brian Lombardi, Zoning Official

Wastewater management board

Gene Pepper, Chairperson

Subdivision review

Ray Goff, Town Planner

Gloucester Town Hall

1145 Putnam Pike

PO Drawer B

Chepachet, RI 02814-0702

Jamestown

Jamestown has established one body of enforceable policy pertaining to septic systems.

- Jamestown Zoning Ordinance--Article 2, section 308

Septic System Standards Beyond State Regulations

Jamestown's zoning ordinance requires the following setbacks:

- Any type of septic system or sewage disposal system must be located 150 feet from any bog, floodplain, pond, marsh, swamp, stream, area subject to stormwater flowage, emergent or submergent plant community, or other freshwater as defined in RIGL section 2-1-20.

Septic System Management Requirements

While Jamestown currently have no management requirements implemented, they recently received a state nonpoint source management grant from DEM to establish a wastewater management plan and an ordinance that will include maintenance requirements.

Repair Replacement Programs

The wastewater management plan will be used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program.

Contacts

Frederick Brown, Zoning Official

Lisa Bryer, Town Planner

Jamestown Town Hall

93 Narragansett Avenue

Jamestown, RI 02835-1199

Johnston

Johnston recently passed a wastewater management ordinance entitled:

- An Ordinance Establishing a Wastewater Management District (Ordinance 1096).

Septic System Management Requirements

Johnston is currently implementing its onsite wastewater management ordinance. This ordinance is based on the Glocester wastewater management ordinance and is therefore also similar to the state's model ordinance.

Repair Replacement Programs

Johnston has recently received a state nonpoint source pollution management grant from DEM to develop an onsite wastewater management plan. The plan will be used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program.

Contacts

George Corrente, Director of Building Operations
Town of Johnston
1385 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919

Narragansett

Narragansett has established septic system requirements via two bodies of enforceable policy:

- Narragansett Zoning Ordinance—Appendix B
- Narragansett Utilities Code—sections 20-212 – 214.

Narragansett is currently developing an onsite wastewater management plan that will establish eligibility for the Community Septic System Loan Program.

Septic System Standards Beyond State Regulations

In its zoning ordinance, Narragansett has established three overlay districts. Each district has special requirements for siting of septic systems. The three districts with their requirements are:

1. Coastal and Freshwater Wetlands Overlay District.
 - Septic systems are prohibited in all biological coastal and freshwater wetland areas.
 - Special use permits for septic systems in areas within 150 feet of biological coastal and freshwater wetlands.
2. Coastal Resources Overlay District.
 - Special use permits are required for septic systems in areas within 200 feet of all coastal features (i.e., CRMC's jurisdiction).
3. High Watertable Limitations Overlay District.
 - Septic systems are prohibited in areas where the groundwater is at 18 inches or less for significant portions of the year.
 - Special use permits are required for septic systems in areas where the groundwater is between 18-36 inches for significant portions of the year.

Narragansett's utilities code prohibits the use of garbage disposals with septic systems. Narragansett records garbage disposal prohibitions as deed restrictions.

Requirements for Innovative and Alternative Septic Systems

While Narragansett has no regulation or ordinance that specifically requires advanced treatment, the town may require nitrogen reduction in the coastal overlay district for systems sited within 200 feet of a coastal feature. Nitrogen reduction requirements are based on staff recommendation.

Parties who disagree with the staff recommendation may appeal to the zoning board. If the zoning board supports the recommendation, but the appellant still disagrees, a secondary appeal is referred to superior court.

If the zoning board issues a permit, but the permittee fails to fulfill the permit stipulations, the violation is referred to the building inspector and subsequently municipal court. Issues that remain unresolved after hearing in municipal court are referred to superior court.

Septic System Management Requirements

While Narragansett does not have a wastewater management district ordinance, the town has established septic system maintenance requirements in its utilities code. Narragansett's utilities code makes three important requirements for septic system maintenance:

- Owners must pump their septic systems at least every 4 years.
- Septic tanks must be accessible at all times.
- Use of septic tank additives is prohibited.

Municipal staff and court provide enforcement for the program. Municipal administrative staff issues a notice of violation to residents who fail pump their septic systems and provide a receipt to the town within the four-year pumpout schedule. If the municipality receives no response from the violator, Narragansett issues a summons to municipal court.

Repair Replacement Programs

Narragansett has received a state nonpoint source pollution management grant to develop an onsite wastewater management plan. The plan will be used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program.

Contact

Clarkson Collins, Director
Narragansett Department of Community Development
25 Fifth Ave.
Narragansett, RI 02882

New Shoreham

New Shoreham faces special environmental concerns as it is located entirely on Block Island and has no feasible source of drinking water beyond Sands Pond and groundwater sources. Thus, the town has established relatively protective septic system policies. New Shoreham's policies include:

- Zoning Ordinance—Section 506.
- New Shoreham Wastewater Management District Ordinance.

Septic System Standards Beyond State Regulations

New Shoreham, in November 1998, adopted an amendment to its zoning ordinance which, among other provisions sets a number of standards. These include:

- Use of access risers at inlet and outlet ends of the septic tank and effluent filters on all new, repaired and altered systems; and where technically feasible, retrofitting of existing tanks with access risers and filters by December 31, 2005.
- Certification of septic tank water tightness in situ.
- Prohibition on galleys for new ISDS, ISDS alterations, and major repairs.
- Requirement to renovate cesspools and failing septic systems to establish Treatment Level 1 (T1) or Treatment Level 2 (T2) performance standards by December 31, 2005.
- Conformation of all new ISDS installations, ISDS alterations, and major repairs to T1 or T2 standards.
- Designation of T1 and T2 performance standards based on site conditions, location on critical water resource areas, and location in wetland buffers.
- Analysis of groundwater flow and impact to water quality may be required for ISDS with maximum daily flow over 900 gallons, subdivisions, or other land development projects.

The following setbacks are also included:

- 150 feet of vegetated buffer shall be maintained from any septic system to a freshwater wetland or coastal feature.
- 200 feet of vegetated buffer shall be maintained from any septic system to Sands Pond, Peckham Pond and Fresh Pond.

The ordinance also establishes a requirement for special use permits for anyone requesting relief from the standards of the ordinance; or installations

within the T2 area where the water table is 2 1/2 feet or less or where there is an impermeable layer at 4 feet or less.

Septic System Management Requirements

The New Shoreham Waste Water Management Ordinance was approved in November 1996 as the first mandatory *inspection* ordinance in the State. Its purpose is to establish a wastewater management program to ensure systems are properly operated, regularly inspected and maintained. The ordinance requires:

- Routine inspection with maintenance as needed based on inspection results.
- Inspection schedules to be established by the town, with highest priority in critically resources areas, areas with a history of failure, high seasonal use or frequent pumping.
- Where inspection reveal a failing ISDS, the Building Official issues a notice of violation to repair the system, with a copy to RIDEM.
- Prohibits garbage disposal discharges to an ISDS.
- Requires water conservation.

The town is currently locating systems and wells using GPS and is evaluating the use of various septic system computer-tracking programs.

Requirements for Innovative and Alternative Septic Systems

Enhanced treatment is not required throughout the town unless tipping D boxes, effluent filters, access risers and watertight tanks are considered innovative and alternative. These improvements are required in T1 treatment zones to enhance primary treatment. It is important to note that the treatment level map was created to identify critical resource areas and approximate location of treatment zones based on general soil types. Site investigation is essential to determine the required treatment level.

All new ISDS installations, ISDS alterations and major repairs must conform to ISDS Treatment Level 1 (T1) or ISDS Treatment Level 2 (T2) standards. The standard requirements are:

T1 standards require with Tank Improvements:

- Tipping distribution box.
- Access risers.
- Effluent filter.
- Certified watertight tank..

T2 standards Include:

- The improvements made at the T1 level.
- Shallow drainfields may be required based on soils or proximity to wetlands.

The following treatment requirements are based on location within the T2 zone and site specific soil and water table information. A map entitled, *ISDS Treatment Level Zones for New Shoreham*, indicates whether Treatment Level 1 or Treatment Level 2 is likely to be required. This map is available through the Building Official or the Sewer Commission.

T2N

- Nitrogen (50% reduction or concentration of 19 mg/l) prior to the drainfield.
- Biochemical oxygen demand (30 mg/l) and total suspended solids (30 mg/l) prior to the drainfield.

T2C

- Fecal coliform (1,000 fecal coliform counts/100 ml) reduction prior to the drainfield.
- Biochemical oxygen demand (10 mg/l) and total suspended solids (10 mg/l) prior to the drainfield.

Repair Replacement Programs

New Shoreham has received a federal grant to develop an onsite wastewater management plan. The plan will be used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program. The plan has been accepted by DEM and is currently out to public notice prior to its formal approval.

Contacts

Nancy Dodge, Town Manager

Claire McElderry, Inspector

New Shoreham Town Hall
P.O. Drawer 220
Block Island, RI 02807

North Kingstown

North Kingstown has established two bodies of enforceable policy that affect the construction and installation of septic systems. They are as follows:

- North Kingstown Zoning Ordinance--Groundwater Reservoirs and Groundwater Recharge Areas
- North Kingstown Wastewater Management District Ordinance

North Kingstown has established Groundwater Recharge and Wellhead Protection Overlay Zoning that requires special use permits and enhanced treatment in the proximity of certain sensitive resources. Town is also in the process of facilities planning, which may incorporate an onsite wastewater management plan and use of the Community Septic System Loan Program. The Town Council has recently adopted a *Wastewater Management District Ordinance*. The ordinance requires that property owners inspect their septic systems.

Septic System Management Requirements

The Wastewater Management District Ordinance requires that homeowners inspect their septic systems once every three years. Inspections must be conducted by "town approved" inspectors hired by the property owner.

Requirements for Innovative and Alternative Septic Systems

North Kingstown has a discharge limit of 5 mg/l for nitrate in the groundwater overlay zones. New commercial uses must demonstrate that this limit can be met on site using a conventional septic system. The limit is assumed to be met on residential lots with a density of one unit per two acres. On residential lots that are nonconforming by area, all additions, expansions, enlargements or intensification require a special use permit and in cases where RIDEM determines that an upgrade of the ISDS is required, the upgrade must include the installation of a RIDEM-approved nitrogen-reducing septic system.

Repair Replacement Programs

N. Kingstown has recently received a state nonpoint source pollution management grant to implement an onsite wastewater management plan, which has been approved by DEM. The plan is being used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program.

Contact

Sue Licardi, Acting Director
North Kingstown Department of Water
80 Boston Neck Rd.
North Kingstown, RI 02852-5762

Portsmouth

Portsmouth has established one enforceable policy regarding septic systems:

- The Portsmouth Watershed Protection District (97-11-17, section H).

Septic System Standards Beyond State Regulations

Portsmouth makes the following development restrictions throughout the protection district:

- Reserve space for a replacement septic system.
- Certified watertight septic tanks.
- Prohibition on galleys.

The watershed protection district encompasses the watersheds of Sisson Pond, St. Mary's Pond, Lawton Reservoir and Bailey Brook. The protection district is split into two zones. Zone A includes all lands within 500 feet of the reservoirs or tributaries thereto. Zone UD (Upland District) includes the remainder of the watersheds, which are defined in the Portsmouth Watershed Protection District Ordinance.

In general, proposals for development are reviewed by the zoning official. The zoning board reviews variances and the planning board reviews special use permits.

Requirements for Innovative and Alternative Septic Systems

Portsmouth requires innovative and alternative systems, which have been approved by DEM, throughout Zone A of its watershed protection district.

Repair Replacement Programs

Portsmouth currently has a Community Development Block Grant for the Island Park area. Portsmouth has recently received state and federal nonpoint source pollution management funding to develop an onsite wastewater management plan. The plan will be used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program. Portsmouth is currently preparing a facilities plan amendment for the Portsmouth and Island Park areas.

Contact

Bob Gilstein, Town Planner
Portsmouth Planning Department
2200 East Main Rd.
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Scituate

Scituate has established two bodies of enforceable policy pertaining to septic systems. They include:

- Scituate Subdivision Regulations--Appendix B, section 4(b).
- Scituate Zoning Ordinance--Appendix A, section 7.

Septic System Standards Beyond State Regulations

Scituate has established the following setbacks in their subdivision regulations and zoning ordinance:

- Any sewage disposal facility designed to leach wastes into the soil must be located no closer than 150 feet from the edge of any pond, stream, spring or wetland.
- No private sewer system shall be constructed within 25 feet of a property line.
- No ISDS shall be constructed within 50 feet of a street boundary line.
- No ISDS shall be constructed within 100 feet of a subsurface drain.
- Prior approval from the plan commission is necessary to elude any of the above requirements.

Septic System Management Requirements

Although there are currently no management requirements in place, Scituate recently received a State nonpoint source management grant from DEM in cooperation with the Town of Foster to develop an Onsite Wastewater Management Plan to establish these requirements.

Repair Replacement Programs

Scituate is a member of the Western Rhode Island Home Repair Program along with Foster and Glocester. A portion of the program budget is used for septic system repair. The application process is provided through the Scituate Welfare Department. Applicants may use this program for any type of home repair, including septic system repair that meets the criteria.

Scituate's Onsite Wastewater Management Plan will be used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program.

Contact

David Provonsil, Planning Board Chairman/Zoning Official
Scituate Town Hall
195 Danielson Pike
North Scituate, RI 02857

South Kingstown

South Kingstown developed an onsite wastewater management plan, which was recently approved by town council. In addition, South Kingstown has established special requirements for septic systems sited in the vicinity of waterbodies. These requirements are described in the South Kingstown Zoning Ordinance, section 308.

Septic System Standards Beyond State Regulations

South Kingstown requires special use permits for all septic systems located:

- Within 50 feet of a bog, marsh, swamp or pond.
- Within 200 feet of flowing bodies of water 10 feet or more in width.
- Within 100 feet of flowing bodies of water less than 10 feet in width.
- Within 150 feet of floodplains.
- Within 150 feet of other freshwater wetlands.

Special use permits are also required for any septic system located within 150 feet of a coastal wetland, mean high water mark or tidal waterbody. An applicant may receive a special use permit from the zoning board of appeal. Per the zoning ordinance, the zoning board of appeal must seek an advisory opinion from the conservation commission in order to grant a special use permit.

Requirements for Innovative and Alternative Septic Systems

While South Kingstown has no particular requirement for use of innovative or alternative septic system technology, the conservation commission may advise a stipulation for such technology during negotiation of a special use permit.

Septic System Management Requirements

South Kingstown has recently drafted a wastewater management district ordinance, which requires inspection and maintenance based on *Septic System Checkup*. This ordinance also includes a requirement for all cesspools to be upgrade to prevailing standard by December 31, 2005.

Repair Replacement Programs

South Kingstown has received a state nonpoint source pollution management grant to develop an onsite wastewater management plan. The plan will be used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program. The plan has been drafted by the town and approved by DEM.

Contact

Ray Nickerson, Principal Environmental Planner
S. Kingstown Town Hall
180 High St.
Wakefield, RI 02879

Tiverton

Tiverton has established two bodies of enforceable policy that affect the construction and operation of septic systems. These are as follows:

- Chapter 18—Sewers and Sewage Disposal.
- Appendix A-Zoning, Article VIII, Watershed Protection Overlay District.

Septic system Standards Beyond State Regulations

Tiverton's zoning ordinance requires all ISDS systems within the Stafford Pond Watershed Overlay District to be improved to the prevailing standards by the year 2005.

Septic System Management Requirements

Currently, there are no management requirements in place. However, Tiverton recently received a State nonpoint source management grant from DEM to develop an onsite wastewater management plan.

Repair Replacement Programs

The Tiverton Onsite Wastewater Management Plan will be used to establish eligibility under the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency's Community Septic System Loan Program.

Contacts

Noel Berg, Planning Board

Pat Sullivan, Chair
Tiverton Conservation Commission

Tiverton Town Hall
343 Highland Road
Tiverton, RI 02878

Warren

Warren has established one body of enforceable policy that affects the construction and operation of septic systems:

- Warren Zoning Ordinance--section 32-89 Setback from Wetlands and Water Bodies.

Septic Systems Standards Beyond State Regulation

Warren requires:

- Sewage disposal facilities shall be located no closer than 150 feet of any water body, including wetlands.

Contact

William Hanley, Zoning Official
Warren Town hall
514 Main Street
Warren, RI 02885

Warwick

Repair Replacement Programs

Warwick currently operates the Onsite Rehabilitation Program. Ongoing since 1983, the program is replenished through bonds. Applicants must own a house and reside there for at least two years to be considered for approval. Informational packets are sent to homeowners at their request, which explain the criteria for approval as well as the grant-loan process. Applicants, on a case-by-case basis, can accept the 40% grant and the 60% loan, or just the grant itself.

Contact

Craig Onorato, Business Manager
Warwick Sewer Authority
125 Arthur W. Devine Boulevard
Warwick, RI 02886

West Greenwich

Enforced by the zoning board, West Greenwich has established one body of enforceable policy pertaining to the construction and installation of septic systems:

- West Greenwich Zoning Ordinance--Article VII, section 5 Special Regulations

Septic System Standards Beyond State Regulations

According to the zoning ordinance, West Greenwich requires:

- All ISDS construction and installation be located at least 200 ft from the edge of any pond or stream.

Septic System Management Requirements

Currently, there is no legislation that requires management of septic systems. However, the zoning board may suggest on a case-by-case basis, that a better maintenance be performed on those systems that require it, or fall within the 200-foot setback.

Requirements for Innovative and Alternative Septic Systems

Although, there is no written law requiring innovative and alternative systems, any development within the Queens River Aquifer inside the 200-foot setback must be approved by the zoning board and use an innovative and alternative system.

Repair Replacement Programs

Currently, West Greenwich receives funding from the Community Development Block Grant to do home repairs, including septic system repairs. Homeowners must go through the application process with the ISDS Program at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to be eligible for funding.

Contact

John Pagliarini, Town Planner
West Greenwich Town Hall
280 Victory Highway
West Greenwich, RI 02817

Westerly

Westerly is currently in the process of seeking approval by the Town Council for the Westerly ISDS Management Plan. Once established, the plan will be used to attain funding from the Community Septic System Loan Program.

Contact

Glen Hedman
Westerly Town Hall
45 Broad Street
Westerly, RI 02891